

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2164
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5718

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CO
SUBJ: DISCLOSURE OF MILGRP PHASE DOWN

REF: STATE 126855

1. DURING VISIT TO CANAL ZONE A FEW WEEKS AGO SENIOR U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH WITH MGEN FORERO, DEPUTY COMMANDER COLOMBIAN ARMY, THE PROBABLE PHASE DOWN OF MILGRP COLOMBIA TO SIX MILITARY AND TWO CIVILIAN POSITIONS SOMETIME DURING THE NEXT YEAR. THE WORD IS SPREADING FAST WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THE MILGRP COMMANDER AS WELL AS OTHER U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS WHO WORK THERE ARE BEING CONSTANTLY QUERIED ABOUT THIS CHANGE.

2. THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE NEWS AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY COLOMBIA IS BEING TREATED AS THOUGH IT WERE A DICTATORSHIP THAT VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS, WHEN THE COUNTRY IS A DEMOCRACY WITH A GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, AND WHICH IN ADDITION DEVOTES A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF ITS BUDGET TO MILITARY SPENDING. OBVIOUSLY, THE WORD IS OUT AND IT HAS BECOME UNFEASIBLE TO COMPLY WITH REFTEL'S INSTRUCTION NOT TO ADVISE HOST GOVERNMENT.

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3. RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT WE BE PERMITTED TO DISCUSS THIS PHASE DOWN WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THAT WE NOTIFY THE MINISTER OFFICIALLY.

A. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE MISSION AGREEMENT AND UNDOUBTEDLY APPROVED IT PRIOR TO ITS SIGNATURE BY THE FON MIN IN OCTOBER 1974. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ IN APRIL 1975. NINETY DAY

NOTIFICATION IS REQUIRED TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT.

B. THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THREE SEPARATE SERVICE MISSIONS, EACH HEADED BY A GRADE O-6 OFFICER WITH OTHER PERSONNEL TO PERFORM SUCH TASKS AS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON. THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY SERVICES IN TURN HAVE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS TO SUPPORT THE MISSIONS. GENERALLY THEIR SUPPORT HAS EXCEEDED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT.

C. THE ODC CONCEPT MAY NOT LEND ITSELF TO THE MANNING, THE ADVISORY ROLE, OR TO THE COLOMBIAN SUPPORT WHICH IS ENVISAGED BY THE AGREEMENT.

4. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE NOTE NOTIFYING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AMPLIFY THE AMBASSADOR'S NOTE OF 2 SEPTEMBER 1976 THAT ALERTED THE MOD TO THE POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN THE MILGRP TO THREE PEOPLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAT WE INITIATE DISCUSSIONS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO COVER THE MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEW OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: MASS, CO, US
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